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ABSTRACT

This publication provides information concerning Rhode Island laws and Board of Regents regulations governing the certification of professional personnel in the public schools of Rhode Island. These regulations apply to all individuals certified or seeking certification after October 1, 1964. Individuals certified prior to this date and who have maintained their certification are not affected by these regulations. The material presented in this publication is designed for use by teachers, school administrators, prospective teachers, and those engaged in teacher education. (JD)

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION

IN

RHODE ISLAND

ED137304

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STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ROGER WILLIAMS BUILDING, HAYES STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908

TEACHER CERTIFICATION

IN

RHODE ISLAND

Division of Development and Operations

Regulatory Functions Unit

Office of Teacher Certification

Rhode Island Department of Education

Providence 02908

1975

FOREWORD

This publication provides information concerning Rhode Island laws and Board of Regents regulations governing the certification of professional personnel in the public schools of Rhode Island. These regulations apply to all individuals certified or seeking certification after October 1, 1964. Individuals certified prior to this date and who have maintained their certification are not affected by these regulations.

The material presented in this publication is designed for use by teachers, school administrators, prospective teachers, and those engaged in teacher education.

Thomas C. Schmidt
Commissioner of Education

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I. STATUTORY PROVISIONS RELATING TO CERTIFICATION

The following provisions of Title 16 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, 1956, as amended, contain the statutory authority for teacher certification.

16-49-4 (9b). Board of regents for education - Powers and duties.—To adopt standards and qualifications for the certification of teachers and to provide for the issuance of certificates.

16-49-6 (8b). Commissioner of Education.—To recommend standards and qualifications of teachers and to issue certificates upon approval of standards and qualifications by the regents.

16-11-1. Certification of public school teachers required—Deductions from state aid for noncompliance.—No person shall be employed to teach, as principal or assistant, in any school supported wholly or in part by public money unless such person shall have a certificate of qualification issued by or under the authority of the state board of education. And in case any city or town shall pay or cause to be paid any of the public money to any person for teaching as aforesaid who did not, at the time of such teaching, hold such certificate, then the department of education shall deduct a sum equal to the amount so paid from the amount of the state's money due, or which may thereafter become due, such city or town before giving his order in favor of such city or town for any of the public money under the provisions of 16-1-10, 16-1-11, 16-5-1 to 16-5-5, inclusive and 16-5-19 to 16-5-22, inclusive.

II. TYPES OF CERTIFICATES

Provisional Certificate

Provisional certificates are issued in all areas of certification and are valid for three to six years. Provisional certificates are not renewable, as the holder must qualify for a professional certificate upon the expiration of the provisional certificate.

Professional Certificate

Professional certificates are issued in all areas of certification and are valid for life. In addition to varying amounts of course work required for a professional certificate, an individual must have successfully completed three years of experience in Rhode Island.

Temporary Provisional Certificate

Temporary provisional certificates, which do not require a bachelor's degree, are issued in two areas—vocational education and school nursing. These certificates are valid for a one-year period and expire on the August 1 following their issuance. Renewal of temporary provisional certificates is granted each year to those individuals who have had a successful teaching experience and who complete a minimum of six semester hours of basic course work. Further renewals are contingent upon the annual completion of six semester hours of approved study toward a bachelor's degree.

Special Provisional Certificate

Special provisional certificates are issued only in the area of elementary education. They are issued to individuals who possess a bachelor's degree and who have been appointed to a position under a cooperating teacher in an approved training program. The applicant must have completed at least eighteen semester hours of education course work approved for the preparation of elementary school teachers. The special provisional certificate is not renewable. The holder must fulfill the requirements for the provisional elementary certificate within one year.

Substitute Certificate

Substitute certificates are issued in all areas for which regular certificates are granted and are valid for a period of 75 days in a school year. A substitute is classified as an individual whose position is based on a day-to-day assignment. The requirements for a substitute certificate are the same as those for either the temporary provisional or provisional certificate, with the exception of the recency of study requirement.

Student Teacher Certificate

Student teacher certificates are issued in all areas for which regular certificates are granted. They are valid for a period of six months and are issued at the request of colleges or universities having an approved teacher education program. The student teacher certificate entitles a student to engage in laboratory, intern, or practice teaching experience in the public schools of the state while under the supervision of qualified college and school department supervisors.

Emergency Certificate

An emergency certificate is a one-year certificate, issued in short-age areas, to an individual who does not qualify for the provisional certificate. The emergency certificate is issued only upon application of a local school superintendent, submitted after July 1, in which he declares an inability to locate a fully certifiable candidate. The Department of Education reserves the right to verify that a shortage exists. Applications for emergency certificates are not accepted from individuals in search of teaching positions. All emergency certificates expire on the August 1 following their issuance.

An emergency certificate may be renewed if: (1) the teacher has had a successful teaching experience and (2) the applicant presents six semester hours of college credit applicable to regular certification requirements. Any teacher who is appointed after February 1 to a position which requires emergency certification must complete at least three semester hours of college credit to be eligible for renewal.

III. METHODS OF CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION THROUGH PROGRAM APPROVAL

Rhode Island Institutions

In Rhode Island, as in other states, the preparation of teachers is perceived in terms of systematic programs of study planned by colleges and universities, rather than an accumulation of individual college courses to meet requirements specified in state certification regulations. Accordingly, the Department of Education works with the various colleges and universities in Rhode Island toward the development of planned and sequential curricula for each of the several teaching areas for which the institutions provide instruction. Programs are then formally approved by the Department of Education. Students who complete them successfully, and who are recommended for certification by the institution, are issued a provisional certificate.

Out-of-State Institutions

Graduates of colleges and universities, which, at the time of the applicant's graduation are fully accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), are eligible for provisional certification in Rhode Island for the area or level of teaching in which the applicant is recommended by his preparing institution.

This policy applies only to the applicants who have graduated from the regularly approved teacher education program which is specifically approved by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. Furthermore, the policy applies only to the certification of teachers, not to school service personnel, such as principals, supervisors, superintendents, and others. Graduates applying for certification on the basis of completing an N.C.A.T.E. approved program should so indicate in Item II, line 3 of the application form.

CERTIFICATION THROUGH RECIPROCITY

Rhode Island has entered into a reciprocity compact, whereby applicants from certain other states may, under stipulated conditions, receive initial Rhode Island certification. Applicants who wish to obtain Rhode Island certification under this compact should indicate this in Item II, line 3 of the application form when submitting their application, transcripts, and other required documents.

Northeast States Elementary Teacher Reciprocity Compact

Graduates of baccalaureate programs in elementary education in institutions in any New England state, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware will be eligible for provisional certification provided: (1) the program is approved by the State Department of Education in which the institution is located; and (2) the institution is accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency.

Interstate Agreement on Qualification of Educational Personnel

The interstate agreement provides for certification of out-of-state applicants on either an approved program basis or on an experience basis. The states included in this agreement are as of September 1974: Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

The provisions of the approved program basis for certification are: (1) possession of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution, and (2) completion of a state approved program of teacher preparation on or after January 1, 1964. A list of state approved programs is published annually and may be obtained from any participating State Department of Education.

The provisions of the experienced teacher basis for certification are: (1) possession of a valid initial, regular or advanced certificate issued by a party state, (2) possession of a baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degree, and, (3) twenty-seven months of regular teaching service during the seven years immediately preceeding the date of application. Eighteen of the twenty-seven months of experience must have been under the certificate for which application is being made.

CERTIFICATION THROUGH TRANSCRIPT EVALUATION

For those applicants who have not completed an approved gram, or cannot be certified by reciprocity, it is necessary that an analysis of college transcripts be made in order to determine the applicant's eligibility for certification. Transcript evaluation is made only on the basis of an official college transcript. A transcript is not official unless it contains the impressed seal of the college and the original signature of the registrar or other designated officer of the college or university.

IV. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Graduates of In-State Approved Programs

Graduates of in-state approved programs will complete the application form (Form 1001) in their junior or senior year, then return the application to their college. Upon completion of degree requirements, the college or university will forward all applications, together with official transcripts and recommendations for certification, to the Department of Education for processing and for the issuance of certificates.

All Other Applicants

Applicants must complete and return the credentials to the Office of Teacher Certification, Department of Education, Roger Williams Building, Hayes Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02908. The following credentials must be on file before any action can be taken to ascertain certification status.

1. APPLICATION (Form 1001)
   Complete pages 1 and 2 only.
2. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT(S)
   This must show all undergraduate study with the conferral of the Bachelor's Degree, and any other supporting transcripts of subsequent study.
3. PRIOR SERVICE STATEMENT
   Official statement(s) from all former employers, noting duration and field or area of teaching experience.
4. CITIZENSHIP
   Foreign born must submit official statement showing United States citizenship.
5. OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS—RECIPROCITY
   Experienced teachers applying on a reciprocity basis must submit evidence of certification in a party state, in addition to above credentials (1-4).

V. RHODE ISLAND REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

A. To be eligible for a certificate to teach in the schools of Rhode Island an applicant shall, in addition to the specific requirements described in this publication, meet the following requirements:

1. Be at least nineteen years of age, and a citizen of the United States.
2. Present a statement from an officer of the teacher-preparing institution, regarding general fitness for teaching.
3. Submit the names of at least two character references.
4. Submit such other evidence of professional preparation as may be required by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Applicants who do not possess a master's degree or thirty-six semester hours of approved college or university level study beyond the bachelor's degree must show recency of study; that is, at least six semester hours of course work within the past 5 years to be eligible for a provisional certificate.

C. When an applicant for a teacher's certificate meets all requirements for certification except United States citizenship, and when his non-citizen status is due solely to the fact that he has not been residing in the United States for the period required to apply for citizenship; the Commissioner of Education is authorized to waive the citizenship requirement, provided that the employment of such a person would not be extended beyond the length of time normally required to obtain citizenship.

D. A person who is certified to perform duties in a public school, and who does so every year of the life of the certificate, may request further certification to continue these duties under the standards for certification in effect at the time in which continuous performance of these duties was begun. A person who is certified to perform these duties in a public school, and who does not perform these duties every year of the life of the certificate will be required to meet the standards for certification in effect at the time renewal of that certificate is requested.

RHODE ISLAND
CERTIFICATION OF ADULT EDUCATION

1. A certificate valid for service in the day schools is valid also for service in the adult education classes for the subject(s) covered by the certificate.

2. A certificate valid for service in the day schools may be extended to include other subjects, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and approval by the Coordinator of Adult Education. This extension will be limited to service in adult education classes.

3. In certain subjects which, because of their nature and/or scope, are not normally taught in day school programs; a certificate valid for and limited to service in that subject in adult education classes may be issued to a person whose competency in the field has been demonstrated, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and approval by the Coordinator of Adult Education.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CRITIC TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE

This certificate is valid in elementary or secondary grades for service as a critic teacher or more commonly called at present the cooperating teacher. This certificate is dated to run concurrently with the teacher's certificate. Qualifications for this certificate are:

1. Regular teacher's certificate.
2. Minimum of three years teaching experience.
3. Recommendation of the college requesting service as critic.
4. Completion of a program for service as a cooperating teacher approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DRIVER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

1. Eligibility for a Rhode Island Teacher's Certificate.
2. Completion of an approved course in Driver Education.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ELEMENTARY CERTIFICATE

This certificate is valid for teaching in grades Kindergarten through eight, except where grades seven and eight are organized on the secondary school plan.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Thirty semester hours of education courses approved for the preparation of elementary school teachers, including not less than six nor more than twelve semester hours of practice teaching.

NOTE: The practice teaching requirement may be waived for applicants who have had two or more years of successful teaching experience prior to applying for certification in Rhode Island. All applicants shall, however, present evidence of thirty semester hours of courses approved for the preparation of elementary school teachers.

NOTE: A Special Provisional Certificate may be issued to one who has been appointed to a position under a critic teacher in an approved training program, provided that the applicant has completed at least eighteen semester hours of education courses approved for the preparation of elementary school teachers. This certificate is not renewable. The holder is required to fulfill the requirements for the Provisional Elementary Certificate within one year.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING TAUGHT SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond Bachelor's Degree.

B. Same as IB.

C. Three years of successful teaching experience in the elementary grades of Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S CERTIFICATE

The elementary school principal's certificate is valid for service as a teacher, principal, and supervisor in elementary schools.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for three years.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond the Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Eligibility for a Rhode Island elementary school teacher's certificate.

C. Fifteen semester hours of courses approved for administrative and supervisory service in the elementary school including work in the following areas: Elementary school organization and administration, The supervision of instruction in elementary school, Curriculum construction, School-community relations, and related fields.

D. Three years successful teaching experience in the elementary grades.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING SERVED THREE YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Fifteen semester hours of study beyond IA.

B. Same as IB.

C. Same as IC.

D. Three years successful experience as a supervising principal in the elementary school of Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S CERTIFICATE

This certificate is valid for service as a school counselor.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Completion of a program approved for the preparation of school counselors, including 24 semester hours of guidance, counseling and related disciplines.

C. Eligibility for a Rhode Island Teacher's Certificate, and two years of successful teaching experience.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE EITHER UPON SERVING SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE, OR HAVING FULFILLED THE REQUIREMENTS PRIOR THERETO.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond the Bachelor's Degree.

B. Same as IB.

C. Same as IC.

D. Three years of successful experience as a school counselor in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GUIDANCE SUPERVISOR'S CERTIFICATE

This certificate is valid for service as a supervisor of guidance.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond the Bachelor's Degree.

B. Eligibility for a Rhode Island school counselor's certificate.

C. Three years of successful experience as a school counselor.

D. At least fifteen semester hours of approved graduate level courses in Guidance, Counseling and related disciplines beyond the basic requirements in IB, above; including a course in the Administration and Organization of Guidance Programs.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Same as IA.

B. Same as IB.

C. Same as IC.

D. Same as ID.

E. Three years of successful experience as a supervisor of guidance in Rhode Island

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HOME VISITOR CERTIFICATE

This certificate is valid for service as a Home Visitor or Attendance Officer in the elementary and secondary grades.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Completion of a four-year college course, with a Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Eligibility for a Rhode Island teacher's certificate.

C. Fifteen semester hours of courses in the following areas:

1. Child Development and/or Child Psychology
2. Behavior Problems of Children, Causal Factors and Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency and/or Mental Hygiene
3. Social Case Work
4. Laws Relative to the Welfare of Children and to Compulsory Education

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING TAUGHT SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond Bachelor's Degree.

B. Same as IB.

C. Same as IC.

D. Three years of successful experience as a Home Visitor or Attendance Officer while on a Provisional Certificate.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ENDORSEMENTS

Secondary Teachers

Holders of secondary school certificates may obtain an endorsement to teach their specific subjects or fields in the middle school (Grades 5-8) by completing six semester hours of approved study. Approved study includes child psychology and either methods of teaching the subject in the elementary/middle school or middle schcol curriculum or methods of teaching reading.

Persons holding a secondary certificate without an endorsement for middle schools may continue to teach their field in grades 7 and 8 of a middle school.

Elementary Teachers

Holders of elementary school certificates may obtain an endorsement to teach a specific subject or field in the middle school (Grades 5-8) by meeting the academic course requirements listed below and completing six semester hours of approved study. Approved study includes adolescent psychology and either methods of teaching the subject in the secondary/middle school or middle school curriculum.

Academic Requirements	Semester Hours
Mathematics	12
Language Arts	12
Science	12
Social Studies	12
Humanities	12
Foreign Language	12

Persons holding an elementary certificate without an endorsement for middle schools may continue to teach in grades 5-6 of a middle school.

Secondary Principals

Holders of secondary school principal's certificates may obtain an endorsement to serve as principal of a middle school (Grades 5-8) by completing six semester hours of approved study. Approved study includes child psychology and either organization and administration of a middle school or middle school curriculum.

Middle School Certification (Continued)

Elementary Principals

Holders of elementary school principal's certificates may obtain an endorsement to serve as principal of a middle school (Grade 5-8) by completing six semester hours of approved study. Approved study includes adolescent psychology and either organization and administration of a middle school or middle school curriculum.

Effective – 10/1/73*

*Persons presently engaged as teachers or principals in the middle school shall be eligible to continue to perform in their present capacity under their certificates now held.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE READING TEACHER-SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE

This certificate is valid for service as follows:

1. Diagnosis and remediation of reading disability cases at the elementary and/or secondary level.
2. Teaching of developmental reading at the secondary level.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Eligibility for a Provisional Rhode Island Teacher's Certificate.

C. Eighteen semester hours of graduate level courses approved for preparation of reading specialists including not less than six semester hours of clinic or practicum experience in diagnosis and remediation of reading disability.

D. Three years successful teaching experience.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE UPON SERVING SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Master's Degree or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond the Bachelor's Degree.

B. Eligibility for the provisional certificate described above.

C. Six semester hours of graduate level courses approved for the preparation of reading specialists beyond I-C.

D. Three years of successful experience as a reading teacher-specialist in Rhode Island.

Effective – 8/1/74*

*Teachers presently performing either of the above services in the public schools of Rhode Island will have until 8/1/76 to meet these requirements.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE READING CONSULTANT/SUPERVISOR CERTIFICATE

This certificate is valid for service as reading consultant or as director, supervisor, or coordinator of reading programs.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Master's degree in reading from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Eligibility for a reading teacher-specialist certification.

C. Six semester hours of graduate level courses including one course in the Administration or Supervision of Reading Programs and one course in research reading. These courses are required either as part of or in addition to I-A above.

D. Three years successful experience as a reading teacher-specialist.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE UPON SERVING SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Same as I-A.

B. Same as I-B.

C. Same as I-C.

D. Same as I-D.

E. Three years successful experience as a reading consultant/supervisor in Rhode Island.

F. Fifteen semester hours of approved graduate level courses in reading and related areas beyond the basic requirements in I-A above.

Effective – 8/1/74

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SCHOOL NURSE-TEACHER

The The school nurse-teacher's certificate is valid for service as a school nurse-teacher in the elementary and secondary schools.

I. TEMPORARY PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for one year.

A. Diploma from a high school approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Graduation from an approved school of nursing.

C. Licensed as a registered nurse in Rhode Island.

D. Twelve semester hours from IID, 1 and 2, (Preference should be given to 1-2 and c if available).

NOTE : THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE RENEWED UPON PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE OF SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF AT LEAST 6 SEMESTER HOURS OF STUDY IN THE COURSES LISTED UNDER IID. COURSES LISTED IN SECTIONS 1 and 2 MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE COURSES UNDER SECTION 3 WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR RENEWAL CREDIT. FURTHER RENEWALS WILL BE CONTINGENT UPON THE COMPLETION OF 6 SEMESTER HOURS ANNUALLY OF APPROVED STUDY TOWARDS THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE.

II. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Bachelor's Degree

B. Same as IB.

C. Same as IC.

D. Thirty-six hours of study in the courses listed below in an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education:

Semester Hours

1. a. School Nursing Materials & Procedures.....3
   b. Materials & Methods in Health & Safety Ed. 3
   c. Principles in Public Health Nursing.....3
   d. Nutrition 3

2. a. History or Philosophy of Education.....3
   b. Child Growth & Development.....3
   c. Communication Skills for School Nurse-Teachers 3
   d. Laboratory Experience (Student Teaching).....3

Semester Hours

3. a. Electives from the following areas: History, Literature, Psychology, and Sociology 12

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING TAUGHT SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

III. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond the Bachelor's Degree.

B. Same as IB.

C. Same as IC.

D. Same as IID.

E. At least three years of successful service as a school nurse-teacher while under Provisional Certification.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST'S CERTIFICATE

This certificate is valid for service as a school psychologist.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Twelve semester hours of appropriate Education courses.

C. Thirty semester hours of approved courses in the following areas:

1. Advanced Psychology
2. Psychological and Educational Tests and Measurements
3. Psychological Statistics
4. Psychology of Exceptional Children
5. Psychology of Behavior Disorders
6. Therapeutic Counseling
7. Projective Techniques
8. Individual Intelligence Testing
9. Supervised Clinical Experience (Minimum of at least 4 months internship held jointly in a clinical and school setting)

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING TAUGHT SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Same

B. Same

C. Same

D. Same

E. Three years of successful experience as a school psychologist in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SCHOOL
SOCIAL WORKER CERTIFICATE

This certificate is valid for practice as a School Social Worker in the elementary and secondary school systems.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for three years.

A. Completion of a four-year college course with a Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Master's Degree in Social Work from a school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, to include a minimum of 60 credits in the following areas:

1. Human Growth and Behavior
2. Social Welfare
3. Methods in casework, group, community organization, research and administration in any combination
4. Research
5. Field Work

II. PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Same as IB.

B. Three years of successful experience as a school social worker in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SECONDARY CERTIFICATE

This certificate is valid for teaching in grades seven through twelve except where grades seven and eight are organized on the elementary plan.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Eighteen semester hours of education courses approved for the preparation of secondary school teachers, including not less than six semester hours of practice teaching.

C. Academic Requirements:

	Semester Hours
1. Agriculture	36
2. Business Education	
Secretarial Business	36
Social Business	36
3. English	18
4. History	18
5. Language	
A classical language	18
A foreign language	18
6. Mathematics	18
7. Science*	
a. General Science (must include at least 6 semester hours each in Biology, Physics, and Chemistry	24
b. Biology (includes at least 18 semester hours in Biology	24
c. Chemistry (includes at least 18 semester hours in Chemistry	24
d. Physics (includes at least 18 semester hours in Physics)	24
* (May include 6 semester hours in college math)	
8. Social Studies (must include at least 18 semester hours in history)	36
9. Speech	18

NOTE: THE PRACTICE TEACHING REQUIREMENT MAY

BE WAIVED FOR APPLICANTS WHO HAVE HAD TWO OR MORE YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATION IN RHODE ISLAND. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL, HOWEVER, PRESENT EVIDENCE OF EIGHTEEN SEMESTER HOURS OF COURSES APPROVED FOR THE PREPARATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

(+) A statement showing competency in the language in which an applicant wishes to be certified must be presented before certification may be granted. This statement, attesting to proficiency in the areas of: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, civilization, and culture; may be granted by an official at the preparing institution, or an authorized agent of the Board of Regents for Education. The proficiency statement may be used to waived certain portions of the academic semester hours requirement for the Provisional Certificate.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING TAUGHT SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond Bachelor's Degree.

B. Same as IB.

C. Academic Requirements: Semester Hours

1. Agriculture 48
2. Business Education
   - Secretarial Business 48
   - Social Business 48
3. English 30
4. History 30
5. Language
   - A Classical Language 30
     (Six semester hours may be in a related classical language)
   - A Foreign Language 36
6. Mathematics 30
7. Science
   - a. Biology 36
   - b. General Science 36
   - c. Chemistry 36
   - d. Physics 36
8. Social Studies 48
9. Speech 30

D. Three years of successful teaching experience in the secondary grades in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S CERTIFICATE

The secondary school principal's certificate is valid for service as a principal, assistant principal, and supervisor in junior and senior high school.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for three years.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Eligibility for a Rhode Island secondary school teacher's certificate.

C. Fifteen semester hours of courses approved for administrative and supervisory service in the secondary schools including work in the following areas: Secondary school organization and administration, The supervision of instruction in the secondary school, Curriculum construction and evaluation, School-community relations, and related fields.

D. Three years successful teaching experience in the secondary grades.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING SERVED THREE YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Fifteen semester hours of study beyond IA.

B. Same as IB.

C. Same as IC.

D. Three years successful experience as a secondary school principal in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR A CERTIFICATE TO TEACH THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SEEING

This certificate is valid for service as a teacher of the blind and partially seeing.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Eligibility for a Rhode Island teacher's certificate.

C. Twenty-four semester hours of courses approved for the preparation of teachers of the blind and partially seeing, including work in the following areas: introduction to education of exceptional children, curriculum and methods of teaching blind and partially seeing children, survey of resources and materials for the education of visually handicapped children, fundamentals of reading and writing braille, anatomy, physiology and hygiene of the human eye, methods and materials of teaching brain-damaged children, psychology of behavior disorders and psychological aspects of physical disability, including not less than six, nor more than twelve semester hours of practice teaching.

The practice teaching requirement may be waived for applicants who have had two or more years of successful teaching experience in this area prior to applying for certification in Rhode Island. All applicants shall, however, present evidence of twenty-four semester hours of courses approved for the preparation of teachers of the blind and partially seeing.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR THE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING TAUGHT SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond Bachelor's Degree.

B. Same as IB.

C. Same as IC.

D. Three years of successful experience as a teacher of the blind and partially seeing in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR A CERTIFICATE TO TEACH THE DEAF AND/OR HARD OF HEARING

This certificate is valid for service as a teacher of the deaf, and/or hard of hearing.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Eligibility for a Rhode Island teacher's certificate.

C. Twenty-four semester hours of courses approved for the preparation of teachers of the deaf, and/or hard of hearing including work in the following areas: introduction to education of exceptional children, psychology of hearing handicapped, auditory training and hearing tests, teaching speech to deaf and hard of hearing children, teaching language to deaf and hard of hearing children, medical aspects of physical disability, speech reading (lip reading), and principles of speech correction, including not less than six nor more than twelve semester hours of practice teaching.

The practice teaching requirement may be waived for applicants who have had two or more years of successful teaching experience in this area prior to applying for certification in Rhode Island. All applicants shall, however, present evidence of twenty-four semester hours of courses approved for the preparation of teachers of the deaf, and/or hard of hearing.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR THE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING TAUGHT SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond Bachelor's Degree.

B. Same as IB.

C. Same as IC.

D. Three years of successful teaching experience in classes for the deaf, and/or hard of hearing in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR A CERTIFICATE TO TEACH EMOTIONALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

This certificate is valid for service as a teacher of the emotionally handicapped.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Twenty-four semester hours of courses approved for the preparation of teachers of the emotionally handicapped; including not less than six nor more than twelve semester hours of practice teaching.

The practice teaching requirement may be waived for applicants who have had two or more years of successful experience as a teacher of the emotionally handicapped prior to applying for certification in Rhode Island. All applicants shall, however, present evidence of twenty-four semester hours of courses approved for the preparation of special education teachers.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR THE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE, AFTER HAVING TAUGHT SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond the Bachelor's Degree.

B. Same as IB.

C. Three years of successful experience as a teacher of the emotionally handicapped in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR A CERTIFICATE TO TEACH MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN

This certificate is valid for service as a teacher of the mentally retarded (educable and trainable).

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Twenty-four semester hours of courses approved for the preparation of teachers of the mentally retarded (educable and trainable); including not less than six, nor more than twelve semester hours of practice teaching.

The practice teaching requirement may be waived for applicants who have had two or more years of successful experience as a teacher of the mentally retarded (educable and trainable) prior to applying for certification in Rhode Island. All applicants shall, however, present evidence of twenty-four semester hours of courses approved for the preparation of special education teachers.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR THE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING TAUGHT SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond the Bachelor's Degree.

B. Same as IB.

C. Three years of successful experience as a teacher of the mentally retarded (educable and trainable) in Rhode Island, after receiving provisional certification.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR A CERTIFICATE TO TEACH PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

This certificate is valid for service as a teacher of the physically handicapped (orthopedically and/or neurologically).

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Twenty-four semester hours of courses approved for the preparation of teachers of the physically handicapped (orthopedically and/or neurologically), including not less than six, nor more than twelve semester hours of practice teaching.

The practice teaching requirement may be waived for applicants who have had two or more years of successful experience as a teacher of the physically handicapped (orthopedically and/or neurologically) prior to applying for certification in Rhode Island. All applicants shall, however, present evidence of twenty-four semester hours of courses approved for the preparation of special education teachers.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING TAUGHT SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond the Bachelor's Degree.

B. Same as IB.

C. Three years of successful experience as a teacher of the physically handicapped (orthopedically and/or neurologically) in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATE IN SPEECH AND HEARING THERAPY

This Certificate is valid for service as a speech and hearing teacher-therapist.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Eligibility for a Rhode Island teacher's certificate.

C. Twenty-four semester hours of courses approved for the preparation of a speech and hearing teacher-therapist.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING TAUGHT SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond the Bachelor's Degree.

B. Same as IB.

C. Twelve semester hours of course work beyond IC.

D. Three years of successful experience as Speech and Hearing Teacher-Therapist in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPERVISOR'S CERTIFICATE

The special education supervisor's certificate is valid for service as a teacher, supervisor, director, coordinator, consultant and principal in a field of special education, established under rules and regulations of the Board of Regents for Education.

Principals of special schools must establish eligibility for certification in the field of specialization for which a certificate is requested.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for three years.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond the Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Eligibility for a teacher's certificate in a field of special education.

C. Fifteen semester hours of courses approved as preparation for supervisory service, including one or more courses for supervision of instruction in the special education field.

D. Three years of successful teaching experience in a special education field.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING SERVED THREE YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Fifteen semester hours of approved study beyond IA in a second field of special education.

B. Same as IB.

C. Same as IC.

D. Three years of successful experience as a special education supervisor in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL SUBJECTS CERTIFICATE

This certificate is valid for teaching the special subject field(s) listed below in elementary and secondary grades.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Eighteen semester hours of education courses approved for the preparation of Special Subjects Teachers, including not less than six semester hours of practice teaching.

C. Course requirements in Special Subject Fields:

	Semester Hours
1. Art	36
2. Health and Physical Education	36
3. Home Economics	36
4. Industrial Arts	36
5. Library Science	18
6. Music	36

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING TAUGHT SIX YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

NOTE: The practice teaching requirement may be waived for applicants who have had two or more years of teaching experience prior to applying for certification in Rhode Island. All applicants shall, however, present evidence of eighteen semester hours of courses approved for the preparation of special subjects teachers.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond Bachelor's Degree.

B. Same as IB.

C. Requirements in Special Subject Fields:

	Semester Hours
1. Art	48
2. Health and Physical Education	48

Special Subjects Teacher Certification (Continued)

	Semester Hours
3. Home Economics	48
4. Industrial Arts	48
5. Library Science	24
6. Music	48

D. Three years of successful teaching experience in the Special Subjects field in Rhode Island.

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RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL-SUBJECT SUPERVISOR'S CERTIFICATE

This Certificate is valid for service as a teacher and supervisor in the special-subject fields endorsed thereon. Special subjects are: Art, Health and Physical Education, Home Economics, Industrial Arts, Library Science and Music.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for three years.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Eligibility for a Rhode Island teacher's certificate in the special-subject field.

C. Fifteen semester hours of courses approved as preparation for supervisory service, including one or more courses for supervision of instruction in the special-subject field.

D. Three years of successful teaching experience in the special-subject field.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING SERVED THREE YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Fifteen semester hours of study beyond IA.

B. Same as IB.

C. Same as IC.

D. Three years of successful experience as a supervisor in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT'S CERTIFICATE

This Certificate is valid for service as superintendent and assistant superintendent of schools.

I. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for three years.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond Bachelor's Degree from an institution approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Thirty semester hours of courses approved as preparation for the organization and administration of a school system, including work in the following areas:

1. Organization, Administration and Supervision of instruction in the elementary and secondary schools.
2. Curriculum construction and evaluation
3. School-community relations
4. Related fields which might include: Public Administration, Finance, Anthropology, School Law and School Plant

C. Eligibility for a Rhode Island teacher's certificate.

D. Five years of successful teaching experience, two of which shall have been of administrative and/or supervisory grade, such as: principal, supervisor, director, or other positions of similar rank and responsibility.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT RENEWABLE. HOLDER MUST QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE AFTER HAVING SERVED THREE YEARS IN RHODE ISLAND UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

II. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Thirty semester hours of study beyond IA.

B. Same as IB

C. Same as IC

D. Three years of successful experience as a superintendent of schools in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND
REQUIREMENTS FOR VOCATIONAL-EDUCATION TEACHER

This certificate is valid for service in the secondary grades and will be endorsed for the specialized field as established in IB.

I. TEMPORARY PROVISIONAL - VOCATIONAL EDUCATION - valid for one year.

A. Diploma from a high school approved by the Board of Regents for Education.

B. Appropriate work experience as required by the State Plan for Vocational Education.

C. Twelve semester hours from Section ID.

NOTE: This certificate may be renewed upon presentation of evidence of satisfactory completion of at least six semester hours of study annually in the courses listed under Section ID. Further renewals will be contingent upon completion of six semester hours of approved study annually toward the Bachelor's Degree.

D. Basic courses: Semester Hours

1. History, Principles & Practices of Vocational Education 3
2. History of Education 3
3. Principles of Education 3
4. Educational Psychology 3
5. Tests and Measurements 3
6. Vocational & Educational Guidance 3
7. Methods of Teaching Industrial Subjects 3
8. Occupational Analysis & Course Construction 3
9. Shop Planning & Management 3

II. PROVISIONAL - VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE - valid for six years.

A. A. Bachelor's Degree.

B. Same as IB.

C. Twenty-four semester hours of study as listed under ID.

NOTE: This certificate is not renewable. Holder must qualify for professional certificate after having taught six years in Rhode Island under the provisional certificate.

VOCATIONAL-EDUCATION TEACHER CERTIFICATION (Cont.)

III. PROFESSIONAL - VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE - valid for life.

A. Master's Degree, or thirty-six semester hours of approved study beyond the Bachelor's Degree.

B. Same as IB.

C. Same as IIC.

D. At least three years of successful service as a vocational education teacher on the Provisional certificate in this state.

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VI. CERTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A Certification Advisory Committee was formed in 1985 to provide continuous advice to the Commissioner of Education concerning teacher education and teacher certification. The Committee, appointed by the Commissioner, is comprised of teachers in both elementary and secondary schools, school administrators, representatives of colleges with teacher training programs, and other individuals representing the educational community in Rhode Island. The Coordinator of Regulatory Functions serves as executive secretary to the Advisory Committee.

The Certification Advisory Committee has as its primary emphasis the continuous review of rules, regulations and practices concerning teacher education and certification in Rhode Island. In fulfilling its role, the Committee welcomes suggestions from, and seeks the advice of, professional associations.

VII. PROGRAM APPROVAL PROCEDURES

Formal approval of a program of study is given to a higher education institution on the basis of documentation presented by the higher education institution and on an evaluation visit by a team selected by the Department of Education. Recommendations for certification are accepted only from higher education institutions with approved programs in teacher education.

To have a program in teacher education approved by the Department of Education, the higher education institution describes its intentions concerning courses, faculty and facilities in a written proposal on forms provided by the Office of Teacher Education and Certification. The basis for program approval is Standards for State Approval of Teacher Education, 1973 revision.

When a proposal has been deemed acceptable, a letter for approval is forwarded to the President of the higher Education Institution by the Commissioner of Education. Programs which have been classified as approved by the Commissioner continue to be approved until a change necessitates another approval process. Program approval status for the purposes of the Interstate Agreement on Qualification of Education Personnel is granted for a five year period.

VIII. DEFINITIONS

Bachelor's Degree from an Approved Institution

is a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university, or completion of a bachelor's degree program in teacher education which has been approved by the Department of Education in the state in which the institution is located.

Approved Study Beyond the Bachelor's Degree

is graduate or undergraduate college credit course work completed at an accredited institution.

Preliminary Coverage

is verbal approval extended to a superintendent of schools to employ an apparently certifiable candidate for a period of up to thirty days while the applicant's credentials are being processed.

Critic Letter of Approval

is a letter from the Certification Officer allowing a certified teacher with three years' teaching experience to function as a cooperating teacher for one year without having completed the required course.